



VIA EMAIL

June 2, 2020

President Christina Paxson  
Office of the President  
Brown University  
Providence, RI 02912

Dear President Paxson:

US Squash and the Squash & Education Alliance (SEA) wish to express our deep concern regarding Brown University's announcement last week that the women's and men's squash programs will lose their varsity status at Brown.

While we respect the rigorous process that went into this difficult decision, we also fear that many facts are not known about squash. This may have led the university to conclusions that actually have led the athletic department away from its stated goals of the Excellence in Brown Athletics Initiative such as the need for the "recruitment of outstanding scholar-athletes", providing "equal opportunities for men and women", and "supporting diversity and inclusion".

Contrary to commonly held beliefs, squash in fact leads college sports in academic qualifications, equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion. Squash players are consistently high academic performers. Squash recruits at the most selective colleges and universities in America are regularly at the top of the school's Academic Index chart. This allows athletic departments to balance their index requirements and recruit less academically qualified athletes in other sports in order to boost their competitiveness, while at the same time remain competitive in squash.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

At the collegiate varsity level, there are an equal number of women's and men's varsity teams, and further, the sport is one of only a few worldwide that offers full parity in prize money at the professional level. No other sport is as thorough or committed to equal opportunity for women and men than squash. As recently as this March, the global Professional Squash Association (PSA), which oversees women's and men's squash, were the first signatory to support the United Nations Women Sports for Generation Equality initiative.

In the last two decades, squash has invested heavily in diversifying the sport and offering children from all backgrounds opportunities to benefit from the sport.

Squash and education (SEA) programs are in nearly two dozen cities across the country, providing academic tutoring, mentoring and squash instruction to thousands of kids in underserved communities as a vehicle to higher education. Dozens of colleges – Drexel University, Fordham University, Amherst College, Cornell University, St. Lawrence University, and Wesleyan University, to name just a few – have used athletic recruiting in squash to become more diverse and inclusive, and to increase social mobility in this country. Hundreds of graduates of SEA programs have gone on to play varsity college squash, and more than 50 students from these programs play varsity squash today.

Squash is played in more than 180 countries and attracts athletes to U.S. schools from every corner of the world. World Champions rein from all five continents, and more than forty countries are represented in the college ranks. This geographic and ethnic diversity from all over the world dramatically enhances the value of the collegiate experience for the entire college community.

### A Rising Sport

The sport is clearly on the ascendency. US Squash membership has grown 300% in 15 years. Junior squash participation nationally has exploded in participation by more than 500% in the last decade. There are more than ten times the number of high school squash programs actively competing in the country than there were just 15 years ago.

This growth has driven colleges to add varsity programs, at schools as diverse as Stanford University, Drexel University, George Washington University, the University of Virginia, Dickinson College, Columbia University, Chatham University and most recently, Georgetown University.

Finally, squash is one of the few truly lifelong sports, allowing people and families to enjoy the sport and its benefits from ages five to 95. Ensuring access to the sport for all is part of US Squash's core mission, and every measure of the sport indicates significant progress towards this vision.

Based on the facts it is reasonable to ask if there is any sport better suited than varsity squash to address the Excellence Initiative's stated goals of excellence, equality, diversity and inclusion?

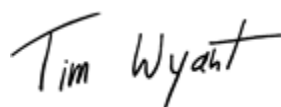
In summary, squash attracts academically qualified, diverse athletes from all over the world and cities and neighborhood across the country, from St. Louis to San Diego, Detroit to Dallas, Boston to Baltimore, and from the South Side of Chicago to the South Bronx. Squash literally defines what it means to be equal, inclusive, diverse and balanced in its focus on academic and competitive excellence. Squash athletes are the embodiment of what it means to be a scholar-athlete.

It is our hope that armed with this information, and with the support of the Brown squash community inclusive of the hundreds of alumni and parents of alumni and current students with an interest in supporting the varsity status of squash at Brown, the administration and athletic department will reconsider transitioning squash's status to allow the sport to serve the Excellence in Brown Athletics Initiative's goals.

Sincerely,



Kevin D. Klipstein  
President & CEO  
US Squash



Timothy F. Wyant  
Executive Director  
Squash & Education Alliance

- CC. Jack Hayes, Director of Athletics, Brown University  
Marguerite Joutz, Chief of Staff and Assistant to the President, Brown University  
Amrit Kanwal, Chairman of the Board, Squash & Education Alliance  
John Nimick, Chairman of the Board, College Squash Association (CSA)  
David Poolman, Executive Director & Commissioner, CSA  
Mark Pagon, Chairman of the Board, US Squash